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62.00 c1940, Deser. price list of orchids.

How the Average Person may grow and enjoy these Interesting Plants in the Home

By H. J. RAPELLA

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

RAPELLA
ORCHID COMPANY

Grower . . . Importer . . . Exporter

13518 YUKON AVE., HAWTHORNE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

An easy, interesting treatise showing how anyone can grow orchids indoors anywhere for very little money, together with simple, understandable information about their culture.

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# HOW TO GROW ORCHIDS

## Greenhouse No Longer Necessary

1. Old theories have gone up the flue. It long has been thought that orchid plants required specially constructed and elaborately equipped greenhouses. It was assumed, too, that the plants had to be kept at a very high, constant temperature. There was even the question of humidity . . . close to saturation to equal that of the orchid's habitat. As for the average amateur being successful in growing orchids—it was absolutely unthinkable.

2. You can have orchids right in your own home as well as in a greenhouse. All you need is a sunny room or a bay window with a favorable exposure. It's just as simple as that—this matter of orchid success.

If grown in bay window the direct rays of the sun should be diffused by using an ordinary rattan shade or by painting the glass.

## Rapella's Orchid Cabinet Will Fit Almost Any Room

(See Illustrations)

3. In this cabinet there is a metal pan with ends and sides an inch or two smaller than the cabinet. The pan is about two inches deep and in it are placed some broken crocks or moisture-holding bricks. The pan is raised about three inches above the floor of the cabinet. On the pan is a wooden rack on which the potted orchid plants are set. For humidity, keep the rocks and rack moist. For heat place a 25-watt electric light globe in an empty flower pot under the pan. Use the light at night when the temperature falls below 55 degrees.

4. The top of the cabinet is on hinges so that top air may be admitted by raising it, and the front panel is also on hinges so that it may be let down. You keep the front of the cabinet open by day and closed at night. Orchids are air-loving plants—they should have plenty of air but no drafts. By placing a light globe under the pan with moist crocks adequate condensation is provided. Needless to say, all kinds of tropical plants will thrive in this cabinet along with the orchids. Maiden Hair ferns for instance.

## It's Easy and Lots of Fun

5. You should check the plants at least once a week, giving them a good watering. On sunny days the foliage should be syringed several times a week with a hand sprayer. When watering the plants, saturate the material in which they are potted. Do this in the morning, as the rising temperatures will evaporate any water which lodges between the leaves. Don't do any more orchid watering until the peat has fairly dried out. Never keep a plant sopping; it causes the roots to decay and your specimen to die. Never water after 4 p.m. or when the weather is cloudy.



## RAPELLA'S ORCHID CABINET — A JOY TO OWN

Here it is—the orchid garden for everybody. PRACTICAL—DURABLE. Measurements 24 in. wide by 30 in. high by 30 in. long. Rests easily on ordinary stand or table. Read paragraph three. Price as shown below (at Nursery).....\$12.50  
With 3 adult Orchid Plants..... 20.00

6. During warm summer days water in between the pots. This means that the atmosphere will be moist when the temperature is high and comparatively dry when the temperature is low.

7. In the Philippines and South America you see all orchids growing out where the air is cool and fresh. In South America the Cattleyas are only found at high elevations. In the daytime it is rather hot in the sun and in the evening it is surprisingly cool. At night the condensation is so heavy that everything in the open becomes saturated, but a few minutes after the sun rises all is dry again.

## Orchids Are Not Parasites!

8. Orchids growing on trees derive no nourishment from the tree itself—save that which may wash down on the outer bark. Orchid roots about the tree are there merely for support. The writer collected quite a few fine Cattleya trianae plants growing on limestone in Colombia. A very large plant bearing white blooms was found on an old decayed tree trunk.

9. Orchid culture is not at all difficult, but it does require a little study and understanding. For instance, you should know what the plants need. They may be grown in regular clay pots of either the deep or shallow shape. However, for the larger plants the shallow type seems more suitable. Some orchids, particularly the dendrobium and phalaenopsis, grow well in hanging baskets made of wood or tree ferns. All our orchids are established in pots and are growing, vigorous

*All orders are sent carriage collect unless*



# CALIFORNIA-GROWN ORCHIDS

**are grown in a cooler climate and are hardier and easier to grow**

plants and need not be repotted for at least a year. We will repot for you or supply the necessary orchid peat (osmundine).

## Let An Expert Advise You

10. Repotting the plants shouldn't be necessary for one or two years from the date you buy them. As a general plan, though, it is best to repot most orchid varieties at least every second year, but the potting time will depend upon their rapidity of growth and the condition of the compost. If the compost turns greenish or does not dry out well, it should be changed.

degrees at night and 75 to 90 degrees for the day. In winter let the temperature run from 55 to 62 at night and from 65 to 70 degrees in daytime.

## Orchid Flowers—Care After Cutting

13. When you want to take your orchid blossoms, do the cutting in the early morning or evening. The orchid stem should be placed immediately in water and kept in a cool room or on a bottom shelf of a refrigerator. After wearing, about 1-16th of an inch should be sliced off the end of the stem so that when the blossom is placed in water again the stem will absorb moisture to replace that which it lost. In this manner blooms may be kept as long as three weeks or more.

It's an advantage to the amateur to purchase plants that are grown by us under cooler conditions than is usually customary. This induces a hardier growth—which is of great help to the enthusiast who seeks to have orchids at home.

SEE LAST PAGE FOR UNUSUAL BEGINNER'S OFFER

## ORCHIDS FOR EASY HOME CULTURE

**CATTLEYA TRIANAE.** Deep lavender to white. Easily grown and may be purchased from us in a wide range of sizes. Blooming season is from November to March. Mr. Rapella collected these magnificent plants himself in the South American jungles, and selected them for their healthy growth as well as for size and color of blooms.

Cuttings established in 4" pots..\$1.00 ea.  
In 4" pots, flowering size..... 3.00 ea.  
In 5" pots, flowering size..... 5.00 ea.  
Larger and specimen plants—prices on request.

**CATTLEYA MOSSIAE.** Lilac to deep lavender. Lip beautifully veined. Very fine. Follows trianae, usually blooming around Easter. Flowering plants, 5" pots, only..\$7.50 ea.

**CATTLEYA HYBRIDS.** We have a large supply of very choice flowering Cattleya hybrid plants. Reasonably priced.  
\$5.00 per plant in 4" pots. Larger plants at \$7.50 to \$12.50 per plant. Fine, vigorous plants in 2" pots at \$1.00 per plant, in a wide variety of excellent crosses. In 1½" pots, 50c per seedling.

Also in community pots at \$3.50 and \$5.00 per pot of 20 seedlings ready to be repotted to 1½" pots.

**DENDROBRIUM SUPERBUM.** One of the most intriguing of orchids to grow. Thrives from early spring to late fall in your lath house. We recommend this highly. It is grown pendant and the many fine, fragrant dark colored blooms are desirable as a cut flower due to its lasting qualities.

Price: \$1.50 and \$2.50 per plant.

The above varieties are, of course, only a very limited list of our large collection; but we feel that the beginner will be happier with these hardier kinds. It is easy and interesting to add to your collection later.

We sell Orchid Peat and carry a full line of supplies. To those who prefer we repot orchids at a nominal cost.



Showing our cabinet in an average home. As you can see, it has enhanced the beauty of the room and added a new interest for the proud possessor. Friends exclaim over the beautiful flowers usually on display. The cabinet delivered anywhere in Southern California with an extra choice collection of 4 orchid plants of easy culture, including the large-flowering Cattleya and the very showy Laelia from Mexico. All potted adult plants delivered in Southern California .....\$25.00

Some orchid species, however, do not like to be disturbed and should not be repotted unless absolutely necessary. If you are in doubt ask us.

11. The potting operation is performed by first placing the broken crocks in the pots or baskets and then covering the crocks with a layer of osmundine or orchid peat. The orchid plant is then held in place, the rhizome being level with the tops of the pot. The osmundine is carefully placed and compacted about the roots until the pot is filled. Orchids should be potted firmly. If there are insufficient roots to hold the plant adequately, or if its leaves are heavy, the specimen should be tied to a stake forced into the peat.

12. In summer keep the temperature from 60 to 65

less otherwise noted. Add 3% sales tax.





## BEGINNER'S GROUP

**3** named Orchids personally chosen by Mr. Rapella.

- 1 Cattleya Trianae
- 1 Dendrobium Superbum
- 1 Laelia Autumnalis

At Nursery.....\$5.00

Delivered prepaid in  
California for only.....\$6.00

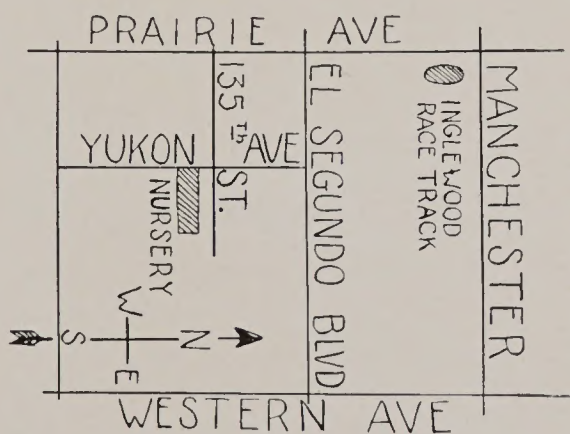


CATTLEYA TITRIANAE. One of our many dark flowering hybrid types. Strong, vigorous grower, flowering during the Christmas holiday season. 2 inch pot-size plants.....\$1.00  
OTHER HYBRIDS. Flowering size plants.....\$7.50-\$10.00

Orchids are a fascinating hobby and we believe there is more interest and excitement in growing them than can be found in growing any other flowering plant.

It is our earnest desire to assist anyone interested in the growing of Orchids. Our many years of experience as growers, importers and exporters makes it possible for us to give you FREE expert advice.

WE WANT YOU TO VISIT OUR NURSERIES . . . YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME . . . OPEN SUNDAYS



**From Hollywood, Beverly Hills, etc.**  
Drive south on Prairie Ave. past Inglewood Race Track to 135th St., then four blocks east to Yukon Ave.

**From Los Angeles, San Gabriel, etc.**  
Drive south on Western Ave. to El Segundo Blvd., west on El Segundo to Yukon Ave., and south to Nursery

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**ORCHID**

**COMPANY**  
HAWTHORNE  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



# ORCHIDS

*Insist on Rapella's*

*California-Grown*



*One of our choice Plants used in hybridizing.*